



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

January 25, 2008

News from the Chief

Last week's recovery of the stolen Election Commission laptop computers brought relief to more than 300,000 registered voters who feared that their social security numbers and other personal information were at risk. The recovery came about as the result of absolutely outstanding police work by a number of individuals.

Identification Officer Billy Merryman, who retired last week, meticulously processed the crime scene on December 26 and collected a small amount of blood. **Central Precinct Detectives Rick Mavity, Ricky Winfrey, Joe Williams** and their colleagues worked very hard to pursue all investigative leads, including obtaining a letter from the District Attorney's Office asking that the TBI run DNA tests on the unknown suspect blood sample. Such letters are required by the TBI due to the volume of testing requests it receives. Once the TBI identified the blood as belonging to convicted felon Robert Osbourne, a burglary warrant was obtained and Osbourne was in custody within 48 hours. Osbourne's arrest ultimately led to the recovery of the laptops and their associated components. Computer Forensics Detectives **Chad Gish and Tracy Gatwood** spent much of the MLK holiday weekend analyzing the computers and the hard drives. They found no evidence that the sensitive information stored on the computers was accessed, viewed, or copied.

The outstanding outcome of this case points to the tremendous value DNA evidence has in solving both personal and property crimes. With more than 400 state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies in Tennessee potentially waiting in line to have items analyzed by the TBI, that agency, by necessity, must limit and prioritize requests. These circumstances are key to the police department's request for a stand alone DNA component within an expanded MNPD crime lab. There is no doubt that the department needs to move its current lab out of the old auto body repair shop at 501 2nd Avenue to a more suitable location. The existing fire department headquarters building, which will soon be vacated when the new fire headquarters building is complete, is being considered as a place that could fulfill our needs. Wherever the new lab facility is located, the MNPD will seek the support of the Metro Council and Mayor Dean to conduct DNA analysis from crime scenes, both where the suspect is known and unknown. I believe such testing will result in more suspect identifications, more cases being solved, and a safer Nashville.

Thank you to all MNPD employees for your tremendous work.

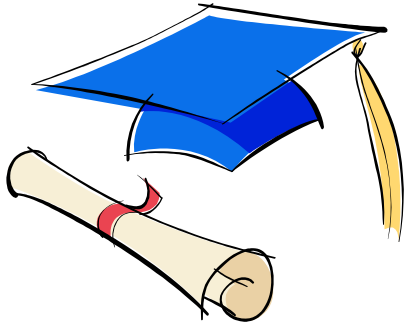
Happenings



Session 56 receiving latent print training.



Session 56 running the Fire Academy's obstacle course during PT.



**Session 56 Graduation Ceremonies
Thursday, March 6
6 p.m. at Madison Church of Christ
106 N. Gallatin Pike**

Congratulations!

Officer John Donnelly retires after 35 years of service.



Officer John Donnelly and his wife, Jenny

The Field Operation Bureau 2007 Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Year

Hermitage Precinct Officer Phillip Meador is the department's Patrol Officer of the Year.

When a man terrorized two families in Old Hickory last February, including a woman and her two year old child, Officer Meador was quick to respond. The suspect had tried to force his way into one home, got punched by the resident, and then ran to a nearby garage where he tried to carjack a woman, who was accompanied by her two-year-old child. Officer Meador's decisive action and outstanding response led to the apprehension of this dangerous man without serious injury to anyone involved.



**Pictured (l-r) are Officer Phillip Meador
and Chief Ronal Serpas.**

Hermitage Precinct Officers Cindy Huffines and Cedric Connolly are the department's Police Officers of the Year.

Within hours of a July 24th homicide in Tony Sudekum public housing, Officer Huffines received a telephone call in the middle of the night from a citizen who witnessed the shooting and provided the suspect's nickname. Officers Huffines and Connolly then meticulously searched MDHA and police computer databases until they matched the nickname with the suspect's true identity. The eyewitness confirmed these officers had found the right man.



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Cedric Connolly, Officer Cindy Huffines, and Chief Ronal Serpas.

East Precinct Detectives Paul Harris and Rex Davenport are the department's Field Services Bureau Investigators of the Year.

These two detectives put in more than 170 man hours investigating the murder of Jose Flores, who was killed at his Joseph Avenue home during an attempted robbery. The teamwork of Detectives Harris and Davenport in interviewing witnesses and potential suspects ultimately led to the arrest of four dangerous teenagers who were linked not only to the murder, but several other crimes.



Pictured (l-r) are Detective Rex Davenport, Detective Paul Harris, and Chief Ronal Serpas.

The Investigative Services Bureau 2007 Investigators of the Year

Sergeant Pat Postiglione and Detective Lee Freeman from the Homicide/Cold Case Unit are the Investigative Services Bureau Investigators of the Year for their work on the case of truck driver and accused serial killer Bruce Mendenhall.

Mendenhall was arrested in Nashville July 12 and is charged with killing Sara Hulbert at a truck stop near downtown. He has implicated himself in at least six homicides, five of them in other jurisdictions.



Pictured (l-r) are Detectives Lee Freeman, Sergeant Pat Postiglione, and Chief Ronal Serpas.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Hermitage Precinct Flex officers conducted a truancy sweep of Antioch High School.

In addition to seven truancy charges, a traffic stop near the school resulted in the arrest of a convicted felon with a gun. Officers stopped the driver, Adolfo Isaza, 26, of Neese Drive, for a window tint violation. As officers approached the car, they saw a pistol which had been stolen, on the rear floorboard. Isaza is charged with felon in possession of a handgun, theft, and driving on a suspended license.

Officer Gerald Gomes stopped the driver of a car who was going the wrong way down a one-way street. As the traffic stop unfolded, it was soon discovered the suspect had a small

baggie of marijuana in his front left pocket. Seized in a subsequent search were 205 grams of marijuana, two sets of digital scales, and a loaded .44 caliber revolver. The suspect was charged with felony drug possession, possession of a weapon in the commission of a felony, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving on a suspended license. Thanks to the newly enacted Crooks with Guns law, the charges resulted in a \$106,000 bond.

A traffic stop led to the seizure of over four ounces of marijuana. Officers Kevin Wallace and Marcel Chalou stopped the driver of a car for not wearing his seatbelt. As officers approached the car they detected a strong odor of marijuana. The passenger was charged with felony drug possession.

South

Officer Seth Ranney stopped a Ford Taurus near the Hickory Wood Apartments on Apache Trail for a traffic violation. The driver and five passengers were all under the age of 21. Officer Ranney detected a strong odor of alcohol. Seized in a subsequent search of the car were a handgun and a small amount of marijuana.

One of the adult passengers admitted the gun was his. Three juveniles were also arrested.

Coordinated efforts by South Precinct officers led to the arrest of two men shortly after they robbed a pizza deliveryman at gunpoint outside the Chimney Top Apartments.

During interviews with South Precinct detectives, both suspects admitted to the robbery.

Officers Jason Mayo and Brian Gottschall stopped a 17-year-old unlicensed driver for a traffic violation on Apache Trail. The teen was taken into custody. A loaded revolver was seized in a search of the vehicle.

East

Excellent teamwork between East Precinct Detective Gary Clements and off-duty North Precinct Officer Billy Estes led to the arrest of a man involved in a shootout near the corner of South 6th Street and Sylvan Street.

Detective Clements was investigating an unrelated matter when he saw two men, each armed with handguns, fire several shots at each other at 5 p.m. He immediately broadcast a description of the suspects who fled on foot.

Officer Estes, who was working security at the CWA Apartments at 500 Shelby Avenue, spotted a man who matched the suspect description. He stopped Rondae Osborne, 20, of Greenwood Avenue, and recovered a revolver from Osborne's jacket pocket.

Osborne admitted he was involved in the gun battle. He claimed he fired in self-defense. Several innocent bystanders were in the area at the time of the shooting.

Osborne is charged with felony reckless endangerment, criminal trespassing, and unlawful weapon possession. He is free on \$9,500 bond.

Detectives developed information that led to the arrests of two armed and dangerous teenagers charged in street robberies in the James Cayce public housing development.

Dejuan Bell, 15, and Joshua Strickland, 17, were identified as suspects in the robbery/shooting of a 19-year-old man.

Bell is also charged in a January 2nd robbery at South 6th and Sylvan Streets.

North

North Precinct detectives have charged a total of six persons in connection with two Walgreen's drug store robberies that turned out to be inside jobs.

Based on information developed by North Precinct detectives, search warrants were executed at two locations. Seized were 5,891 prescription pills, three pistols, a tech 22 assault type gun, a BB rifle, and a clown mask.

Detectives believe the suspects intended to sell the stolen drugs.

Officer Kenneth O'Neal stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation near 17th Avenue North. The driver, who has a history of driving on a suspended license and failure to appear in court, was again driving on a suspended license. He was arrested. A .25 caliber handgun was found concealed in his pants pocket. In addition, he had two domestic violence convictions with a third pending domestic violence charge.

Detectives charged two juveniles with criminal homicide in the fatal shooting of a man during an apparent robbery attempt outside a car wash at 3901 Clarksville Pike.

Billy Jack Shane Tuders, 33, of Dickerson Pike, had just left the Phillips 66 gas station and walked to the car wash next door when he was approached by the suspects just after 6 p.m. Tuders was shot in the back as he fled.

Kevin D. Buford, 16, of Walker Lane, and Raymond J. Pirtle, 17, of Charlie Place, are charged in juvenile court with criminal homicide.

West

An accused shoplifter is charged with aggravated assault after he attacked a Target employee. Chris Fluker, 44, was attempting to leave the store without paying for a 19" flat screen TV when he was confronted by the loss prevention officer. Fluker, armed with a knife, lunged at the employee before he fled in a Pontiac Sunfire driven by Adrienne Tellmer, 32.

Officer Mack Peebles quickly broadcast a description of the suspects and their getaway car. Police stopped the couple near Nashville Tech. Both were taken into custody without incident. Fluker and Tellmer were positively identified by store security as the shoplifters.

Fluker is charged with aggravated assault and theft. His lengthy arrest history reflects aggravated assault convictions and theft, burglary, and shoplifting charges.

Tellmer is charged with theft and driving on a revoked license. The loss prevention officer was unhurt.

West Precinct officers arrested a man suspected of stealing thousands of dollars worth of jewelry.

Officers responded to a burglary-in-progress at a home on Columbia Avenue. Less than an hour later, officers located the suspect, Abie Ingram, 43, at his Eastboro Drive residence. Ingram was positively identified as the burglar. The stolen jewelry, valued at more than \$13,000, was also recovered.

Ingram is charged with aggravated burglary. He has been arrested over 20 times with convictions for aggravated assault and aggravated burglary.

Central

Two men are charged with forgery after a third man attempted to cash a counterfeit check at Pinnacle Bank's 211 Commerce Street branch. He told officers the men offered to pay him \$200 to cash the \$2,253.72 check. Officers arrested the suspects in their getaway car after a brief pursuit.

Due to the extremely cold weather, officers continue to offer homeless persons assistance and rides to shelters.

Gang Unit

Three members of the Brown Pride gang, including one of its local leaders, are behind bars on gun and drug charges as the result of Gang Unit enforcement in South Nashville.

They are charged with possession of marijuana for resale and violating the newly enacted Crooks with Guns law, which provides for mandatory consecutive prison sentences.

Gang Unit Detective Kevin Akin was routinely checking the area around Wallace Road and Linbar Drive, which is known for a Hispanic gang presence, when he saw a Chevrolet Lumina cut through a convenience store parking lot to avoid a traffic light. Akin followed the car, saw that it was speeding, and stopped it in the 3800 block of East Ridge Drive.

Found in plain view on the back floorboard of the Lumina was a plastic bag containing marijuana. Also discovered in the car were a nine-millimeter pistol, a 12-gauge shotgun with a pistol grip, two sets of digital scales, one ski cap with eye holes cut out, and three rolls of duct tape. The temporary tag on the Lumina, which expired on December 29, had been illegally altered to show an expiration date of February 29.

Canine Unit

Canine Officer Chico, Officer Joe Shelton's partner from January 2000 until Chico's retirement in April 2006, passed away January 24. Chico was 11 years old.



Chico

I'll Wait

A police K9 explained to St. Peter
I'd rather stay here, outside the Pearly Gate.
I can't come in yet, you see, as my partner is not yet with me.
I'll be very quiet as I sit and wait,
I'll watch over him and pray that he's late.
Because those who love him dearly,
Still need his protection.
And the ones who don't know him, still need his help.
I'll be very patient and wait,
I'll never let out a whimper or yelp.
I'll be chewing my celestial bone,
Waiting for my partner to come home.
It would not be right if I went in alone,
For without my partner you see;
It just wouldn't be Heaven to me,
Without crossing the gates right by his side.

Congratulations:

Officer Joshua Borum, North Precinct, and his wife, Jada, are the proud parents of Ayla Christine, born January 4. Proud grandparents are Mike Borum, Criminal Court Clerk, and Linda Borum, Codes.

Officer Joe Pennington, East Precinct, and his wife Dina, are the proud parents of Ryver Jo, born January 24.



Condolences:

Mario Mayes, nephew of Sergeant Francis Scates, West Precinct, passed away

Cass Satterfield, uncle of Detective Danny Satterfield, North Precinct, and brother of retired Lieutenant Bill Satterfield, passed away January 11.

Officer Jack C. Roberts, retired 1983 after 17 years of service, passed away.

David Dixon, father of Officer Michael Dixon, West Precinct, and Matthew Dixon, Vice Unit, passed away January 18.

Mary Hale, mother of Randy Hale, IT, passed away January 20

Jewel Tate Reese, grandmother of Officer Craig Reese, North Precinct, passed away January 19.

Arthur "Bud" Hipp, father of Officer Arthur "Buddy" Hipp, North Precinct, passed away January 16.

Mary Elizabeth Jordan, mother of Kim Page, Domestic Violence counselor, passed away January 21.

Lucille Jones, grandmother of Rick McIlwain, Fleet Management, passed away January 23.

2008 Polar Bear Plunge Freezin' for a Reason

Please join us for the 9th annual Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics
Saturday, February 16, at Nashville Shores
11 a.m. registration, noon plunge

Visit the MNPD website at www.police.nashville.org and click on the polar bear icon for more information. Hope to see you there!



“Trust me, it’s not that cold!”

Power of a Whisper

Noted horse whisperer Sam Powell will give a presentation on March 18 at 1 p.m. in the Ellington Agriculture Center's Metro Nashville Mounted Patrol Stable at 440 Hogan Road. The event is free and open to all police department personnel and their family members.

The Power of a Whisper tour features classroom lectures and arena demonstrations. The tour was developed to address topics and discussions that are difficult to facilitate in a large arena setting, and are aided by special power point presentations. Topics such as horse thought and behavior, bits, saddle fitting, ground training, equine language, and desensitization take a personalized approach, giving tour attendees plenty of time for learning and Q&A.

Sam Powell's clients include country superstars Reba McEntire and Tanya Tucker, the Nashville Police Department, and universities and stables throughout America. His background includes readings in Zen and countless days spent observing herds in the wild. By age sixteen, he was riding bulls and traveling far from home to Cheyenne's Frontier Days and the Calgary Stampede, before leaving that world for steadier employment on ranches culminating in a 22-year run as equine manager at the famous Mullendore Cross Bell Ranch in Oklahoma. He currently trains out of his ranch in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

If you would like to attend, please email Sergeant James Harber at Jdharber@nashville.gov

MNPD Wellness Tip-off Tip-off for the week

Eat Heart Smart: Eat nuts. Many studies have now found that people who regularly eat nuts, especially walnuts or almonds, cut their risk of heart disease by as much as half. Nuts are rich in cholesterol-lowering unsaturated fats, folate and other B vitamins, heart-healthy minerals, vitamin E, arginine (an amino acid that helps relax blood vessels), fiber, and phytochemicals. The trick is to eat nuts in place of other foods. Since they have 160 to 190 calories per ounce, it is easy to gain weight if you simply add nuts to your daily fare.

Choose to Move: If you don't have time for long workouts, try 10-minute sessions. One study found that nine weekly 10-minute sessions offer the same cardiovascular benefits as three weekly 30-minute sessions. That's good news for beginning exercisers, who may find it easier to stick to shorter, more manageable workouts. Turn your coffee break into an exercise break. Try 10 minutes of brisk walking before work, 10 minutes of stair-climbing or a quick run at noon, and 10 minutes of rope jumping or cycling in the evening.

Source: UC Berkeley Wellness Made Easy, 365 Tips for Better Health, 2005.

MNPD Wellness Initiative

Tara Beever, MS and Sarah Vaughn, RD

For more information, please call (615)-340-0466